take this opportunity to assure the Government that we are willing to pay the water cess that they may be pleased to levy in this behalf.

We are also reliably informed that proposals for acquiring the aforesaid private canal belonging to Parakkal Devassy, are now before the Travancore Government as a result of which the Irrigation Supervisor of the Travancore Government has made investigations on the spot regarding the same.

In this connection, we beg to request the Government to be pleased to take adequate measures for moving the Travancore Government to accord permission for extending the canal to our part and thus enable us to make use of the water for our agricultural purposes.

Awaiting your order."

Voting of Demands for Grants—*(cont.)*

28.—Public Works—Rs. 11,64,447

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Sir, I move that the House be pleased to grant a sum of Rs. 11,64,447 under "28-Public Works.".

The details given in the printed Budget are sufficiently elaborate to give you all a correct idea as to how the money is to be expended. There might perhaps be a few items which might require a word of explanation from me.

A sum of Rs. 1,25,000 for works on communication has been made in this Budget. This is for the purpose of the completion of the works according to the programme chalked out by the Road Board. The road board works, I am glad to say, have been progressing according to schedule. In the Cochin-Kanayannur Taluk the works which have been completed include.—

the Thamarakulangara Road,
the Bridge between Parur and Chennamangalam,
the Malayattur Bridge,
Foot-paths in Gothuruthy,
the Mangayil Road to Nettur,
the Road to the Keechery Frontier, and
the Bridge between Komanthuruthy and Chenganad.

The first section of the Chittur-Vaduthala Bridge has been completed. The embankments have been done and the sufficiency of the vent way has been checked. The crossing is difficult, because of bad foundation. If cost is no criterion the design of foundation would have been simple. But to Highway Engineers it has always been a difficult problem in providing for a cheap crossing the cost of which will be commensurate with the benefits deriving from the crossing. We first prepared an estimate providing for cast iron

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screw piles which is, of course, a very satisfactory design for this bridge. The cost then came up to about Rs. 65,000 and we had to revert to concrete piles bringing the cost much lower. The driving of these piles to a depth of 40 and 50 feet is a difficult process and we are devising means as to how these long lengths might be driven without much expenditure and without damage to the piles themselves. This designing and redesigning for economy has taken much time and this striving for economy has made me realise the truth of the saying that "Economy is a way of spending money without getting any pleasure out of it." The member for the Chittur Constituency has been waylaying me every time he sees me, and has been incessently asking questions about it.

The Kumbalanghi-Chellanam Road work will be started almost within a day or two as a relief work and it is proposed to improve the foot-path leading to Chellanam.

The proposals for roads in Nettur and Kumbalam are only for foot-paths and acquisition papers have been almost completed. Similar is the case for the Thevara Road extensions. The estimates for the Udayamperur Bridge have been sanctioned and the work is being notified for tenders. In the Mukundapuram Taluk we have completed

the Bridge over Valia Thodu,
the Vedithodu Bridge,
the Road connecting Trikkur Bridge to the existing roads, and
the Puthenvelikara Road.

The construction of Anandapuram-Nellai Road has been practically completed except for a bridge which will also be constructed by the end of next year.

The contracts for the Kodakara Vellikulangara road have been awarded. The acquisitions for roads from Kattur to Kakkathuruthy, from Vallivattam to Areepalam and from Pudukad to Pazhayi are in progress.

In the Trichur Taluk the completed works are—

the Road to Chemmampilly Ferry,
the Trikkur Bridge,
the Keranchira Bridge and
the Enbankment at Perumpillissery.

Only two works viz. the Manamangalam road and the Tholur road remain. These works have also been given on contract.

In the Talappalli Taluk, we completed

the Enkakkad Road,
the Paranpadam Pazhanji Road, and
the Thiruvillwamala Mallesamangalam Road.

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Considerable headway has been made on the Pazhayanur Elnad and the Eyyal roads both of which will be completed by the beginning of next year.

The Kondazhi Mayannur road has been given on contract and so also the Cheruvallikadavu road, the Alur Keechery road, the Kadavallur Pazhanji road. Acquisition proceedings are in progress for the Pynkulam road.

In the Chittur Taluk we have completed

the Road Dam at Mattukadavu
the Road Dam at Alankadavu,
the Road Dam at Kozhinjampara and
the Kalchadi Road.

I have now enumerated works costing about six-and-a-half lakhs of rupees, scattered over widely in all parts of the State and the House will realise the amount and volume of works of public utility we have been endeavouring to do. All these works put together will enhance the road wealth of the State by about hundred miles in a State already endowed with more than its share of roads as compared with any other province in India.

The roads in the State in general have been maintained in a fairly satisfactory condition; but the most important item we have yet to do is the renewal of a large number of old culverts. The expense will be large, but it has to be done without delay. The volume of motor traffic especially of heavy lorry traffic is increasing by leaps and bounds. There are many lorries in the State now running with loads of the order of six and eight tons and sometimes more. Almost every month one culvert or other is giving way and so the necessity of starting a vigorous programme or renewal of old culverts is now as great as ever. This year found the completion of the construction of the Shanmukham Canal in Irinjalakkuda. This large work is already gaining in popularity and will in time grow to be a very important artery of communications and of special importance to the town of Irinjalakkuda.

In the Budget of next year you will see a provision of two lakhs and 25 thousand rupees for constructing buildings for schools and medical institutions.

The idea in granting an amount of $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of rupees for schools is to replace the present thatched and unsatisfactory sheds in the 6 taluks by pucca buildings. In the proposals for the improvement of Hospital buildings we have included several useful items of work. A new ward in Trippunittura, an out-patient ward in Nemmara, operation room in Kozhinjampara, repairs to foreshore wall and improvements to closet arrangements etc., in Women and Children's

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Hospital, Mattancheri, bath rooms and lavatories for nurses, Nurses' quarters compound wall etc. of Maharaja's Hospital, Mattancheri, improvements to Chalakkudi Hospital, Labour ward in Cranganur, Nurses' quarters, Stores building, compound wall etc. etc. of Irinjalakkuda hospital, Labour ward, water service, improvements to old wards etc., of Chittur Hospital, improvements to Kunnamkulam hospital, improvements to drainage etc., of Mental Hospital, Nurses' quarters, out-patient building etc., of Maternity Hospital and improvements to Civil Hospital and General Hospital.

So, you will thus be pleased to see that with the money available we have striven to make an eminently equitable distribution of works according to necessity in the several taluks of the State. There are in all 72 different items of work. The estimates for all these works have been prepared, land acquisition papers completed and the tenders for almost all the items of work have been received. The works will be started in 1116 and completed before Edavam of that year.

In the matter of Irrigation you will recollect that it was last year that the three Irrigation Advisory Boards were constituted in the State. Each committee consisted of five persons and their sphere of work was distributed into three sections. One controlling the Taluks of Cochin Kanayannur, Mukundapuram and Cranganur, the other, Trichur and Talappalli and the third, Chittur. The Cochin Kanayannur board held three meetings. The first meeting was held on the 6th April 1939 and was only a preliminary one. The members thought that they should get themselves acquainted with the nature of the work. The next meeting was on the 5th July and they took up several schemes for consideration. The irrigation schemes favoured by them included.—

(1) The prevention of the ingress of salt water in Narakkal paddy fields.

(2) A canal from Kottamkoottuvalavu chira to Vellanipadam.

(3) The construction of another chira at Nandikara above the Manankuzhi Chira on the Kurumali river.

The Board also recommended that the Pillathodu Reservoir Scheme which may cost about 7 or 8 lakhs of rupees as the only permanent solution to solve the irrigation difficulties now experienced for the *puncha* cultivation in the Muriyad and adjacent areas.

The Trichur Irrigation Board considered the important question of *Kole* land irrigation. The scheme favoured by them was that an area of about 800 or 900 acres may be taken up on lease

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by Government and water stored in it for irrigation purposes. This scheme is now before Government and I understand that it has been forwarded to the Revenue Department to report on the subject of increased water-rates to be collected from the ryots as suggested in the scheme.

Among other schemes which they have suggested are.—

The Puthur River diversion and

The Cheerakuzhi diversion.

The schemes have been reported upon adversely from the revenue point of view and the question is proposed to be re-examined.

The Board did not approve of the Desamangalam Irrigation scheme but recommended that facilities should be given in the Choondal village. The following are under the consideration of the Board.—

(1) Irrigation facilities in Chelakkara and Tholur villages.
(2) Puncha lands in Kunnamkulam and Pazhanji.
(3) Do. in Pudusseri Desam.
(4) Do. in Perumpilavu and Kadavallur.
(5) Construction of a sluice in Thekkumkara.
(6) Do. in Ramankayal.

In the Chittur Taluk they recommended the investigation of the Chempankadavu Basin scheme. This work has been taken up.

So it will be seen that several works have been proposed by the Board already. Investigations have already progressed considerably on many of the schemes suggested by them and it is our intention to go into them again in order to choose and define the order in which these works have to be undertaken. It is very much better to have a programme fixed for these works instead of executing them as the proposals are received. I have to thank the hon'ble members who worked so admirably in this connection at great personal inconvenience.

I shall also be failing in my duty if I do not mention the excellent work turned out by all the officers of the Public Works Department who fully co-operated with me in carrying out the heavy programme of this year.

The other details connected with the department do fall under one or the other of the cut motion tabled for discussion and I do not want to take up the time of the House dealing with them at present.

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